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16 April 1960

Honorable A. S. Mike Monroney  
The United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mike:

With reference to your letter of April 1, 1960, I fully share your concern and that of your correspondents over the amount of detailed technical information that is made available to potential enemies by various publications.

I have made the same point in public addresses and in interviews for several years, e.g., U. S. News and World Report, March 19, 1954, "We Tell Russia Too Much."

Certainly in the intelligence field we would be far ahead of where we now are if the Russians publicized their weapons systems, techniques and deployments with a fraction of the openhandedness that exists in this country. They know the value of security and practice it rigorously; in fact, they regard it as one of their major strategic assets, as shown in current and past negotiations looking toward inspected international arms control.

Whether in a free society we can do anything effective to redress the balance of sensitive information disclosure, I do not know, but I am sure that it is a matter that can well command the earnest attention of members of the Congress.

I should welcome a chance to discuss this question with you in more detail as there is no easy remedy.

Sincerely,

/s/ Allen W. Dulles  
Director

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UNITED STATES SENATE

Washington, D.C.

1 April 1960

The Honorable Allen Dulles  
Director of Central Intelligence  
2430 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I am enclosing copies of an exchange of letters between Peter Riedel, former Assistant Air Attache of the German Embassy prior to World War II, and Gill Robb Wilson, editor and publisher of Flying Magazine, discussing the tendency of American aviation publications to publicize detailed technological data which is of direct military value to potential enemies.

I appreciate that this is not an easy problem, and I would be the last to suggest any unnecessary classification of material beyond that which already exists. However, I think you will agree that it is rather absurd to classify information on MATS operating costs and publish technical data on nose cone design.

I would appreciate having your evaluation of the seriousness of this problem and wish to offer the cooperation of the Aviation Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce in seeking to find ways to improve present practices, preferably on a voluntary basis.

Yours very truly,



A. S. Mike Monroney

Peter E. Riedel

Mr. Robert B. Hotz  
Editor of AVIATION WEEK including SPACE TECHNOLOGY  
330 West 42nd Street  
New York 36, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hotz:

From 1938 to the day of Pearl Harbor I was the Assistant Air Attache of the German Embassy in Washington, D. C.. Now I am an American citizen and I feel the strong obligation towards my adopted country to point out weaknesses in our security system, based on my former experiences in the Embassy service.

Ever since my return to this country a few years ago, I have been stunned every time when I opened your magazine or others like it. I was amazed to find that nothing had changed in the American attitude towards security. The articles in American aviation magazines continue to be full of technological or military information about subjects which would be kept a tight secret in other countries, as for example the United Kingdom or nations on the European continent.

You and I as engineers will agree that technical progress is the result of many small steps ahead, made in the technological field. Every businessman will agree that it is not good practice to inform your competitors about your latest finds in technological know-how. So I would like to ask you two questions:

- 1) Why do American technical writers and publishers compete with each other in informing the potential enemies of this country about how to save many man hours of technical research?
- 2) Do you have access to equally valuable material published behind the Iron Curtain, which tells about the Russian know-how in the field of missile and nose cone manufacture?

I would make any bet that Russian technical magazines will not contain articles of real value for the designers and manufacturers of missiles and nose cones in this country. Why then do we continue to feed such information to them? They are bound to advance faster in the missile and space vehicle race, if we enable them to arrive with ONE step at a goal for which we required three steps.

Attaches, contrary to popular beliefs, do not gather information through hired agents i.e. spies, but by fine-combing through all legally accessible material. Twenty years ago a foreign air attache could find out everything, including "classified" information, by systematically evaluating all American publications dealing with aviation matters. I am convinced that loads of American publications are shipped every month from this country by the diplomatic representatives of all Iron curtain countries. This material is promptly sifted and translated by large evaluation agencies of the Soviet Union. Within a few weeks every article will be in the hands of the Russian scientist or engineer to whom the subject is of interest. America's famed know-how is given away gratis, and to the wrong people.

As a new citizen I have learned that freedom of the press is one of the pillars of our Constitution. Why then couldn't American citizens volunteer to refrain from giving away their knowledge in public? True, this would deprive your publications of some interesting material, but what will happen to the freedom of the press, if we lose the great technological race? Mr. K. promised to bury us, and it appears that he meant to do this by outproducing us in the essential fields. This does not include the production of millions of automobiles, TV-sets and automatic washing machines, of course.

There should be a way to organize the exchange of certain information between American and allied scientists and engineers, without making such information known to the public. Such information should be limited to the ones who really work at related problems. For the others it is of no interest anyway. If such voluntary censorship would be exercised, then the potential enemy would have to resort to illegal means i.e. agents, in order to get hold of such confidential information. Our Security agencies would then have a chance to intercept such agents, while nobody can prevent magazines to be mailed abroad.

I could give you many samples of how American publicity about defense-technical matters made it all too easy to look behind the card of Uncle Sam twenty years ago, but this would go beyond the scope of this letter.

Very truly yours,

Peter Riedel

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Colonel Gill Robb Wilson  
Publisher of "Flying"  
One Park Avenue  
New York 16, N. Y.

Dear Colonel:

Perhaps you will remember me from more than twenty years back when I was stationed in this country as an Assistant Air Attache of the German Embassy in Washington, and did some soaring besides. I am happy to report that I am an American citizen now and very proud of it. It was a long cherished wish fulfilled from that time on, when circumstances obliged me to remain on the other side of the fence.

Today I want to ask your advice and opinion about the question I raised in the enclosed letter which I mailed some time ago to Mr. Hotz, the editor of Aviation Week including Space technology. Strangely enough I never received an acknowledgment from Mr. Hotz nor has my letter been published in his "letters to the editor" column. I meant my questions dead seriously. I am worried about this attitude towards defense secrets in this country. It could be fatal for the whole Western world. Could you induce Mr. Hotz to either publicly or privately answer my letter, after publishing it in his magazine?

Between March 21 and 23 I expect to be in New York City and will try to find time to call on you and my friends Bob Wood and Alex Dawydoff. I would be very happy to see you again, if you would have time to see me.

Sincerely yours,

Encl.

FLYING

One Park Avenue - New York 16, New York

Gill Robb Wilson  
Editor & Publisher

March 28, 1960

The Honorable A. S. Monroney  
Senate Aviation Sub Committee  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mike:

Enclosed is a note to me from Pete Riedel, who was formerly the Assistant Air Attache of the German Embassy in Washington, but who is now an American citizen. Attached also is a letter that he wrote to Robert Hotz. Additionally attached is copy of my reply to Riedel.

I knew Pete Riedel in Germany before World War Two. He was a brilliant pilot and an exceptionally fine young man. I am glad he is an American citizen and as you can see, he feels a definite sense of responsibility for his citizenship.

You will find if you inquire into it that the history of our technical intelligence has always left much to be desired. The main responsibility evolved for a long time upon the State Department and, as an American Admiral in command of a United States fleet once remarked to me, "Did you ever dream that the State Department and the United States Navy were supposed to be serving the same country?"

I don't know whether it is feasible to attempt establishment of a security program involving technology or not. I do agree with Riedel that we give away our shirt in the publication of so much technology. During the war, I found a very carefully kept library of American Aviation magazines in the German barracks at Orleans when we went in there, hot on the heels of the German evacuation, and I found another carefully kept library of American

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Aviation magazines in a bunker on Kwajalein, where the Japs apparently were making good use of it. If it falls to your purview to deal with the matter of a national policy, or if you are interested in it, let me know. I'll help in any way possible. If nothing can be accomplished, or at least not accomplished at this time, then just forget it.

Best as always,

/s/ Gil R.

Encl. (3)

P.S. By the way - we have a fine graduate chapter of Phi Gamma Delta in Los Angeles and if you are ever out this way and want a good sounding board for one thing or another, we sure would love to have you speak to us.

/s/

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FLYING

Gill Robb Wilson  
Editor and Publisher

March 29, 1960

Mr. Peter Riedel

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Dear Peter:

I was delighted to receive your letter which reached me out here on the West coast where I'm now making my home, although I spend about half of the time in New York. The jets have made commuting a painless operation and I am back and forth eight and ten times a year.

I often think of you and have pleasant memories of the old hospitality in Bavaria, where life certainly in the former days, was about as charming as anywhere in the world. What a pity so many good people have to suffer from a few who are no good.

The matter of technical security is one which has never had adequate control or even understanding in this country. I am glad to bring up the subject for as the former Air Attache of the German Embassy in the United States, you have a unique understanding and can make a special contribution now as an American citizen.

I, of course, have no influence with Mr. Hotz of Aviation Week, and cannot understand why he should not reply to your letter. Perhaps he feels that it is in conflict with the policy of his publications. In any case, I doubt that the level at which to accomplish a national policy in respect to technical security would be through contact with Mr. Hotz or any other particular publication. I think this should be done at the policy level of the defense establishment or perhaps even at the level of Congress.

Our Defense Department and our various military services have had a very nebulous history in this respect. Many pieces of information which had no real security significance have been kept under security and this has aggravated the American press. I can understand that aggravation. On the other hand, many matters of technical significance have been either deliberately leaked to the press or have been given no consideration as security because of the competitive activities of the



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news media or even of the competition between the military services themselves. Even company rivalry has prompted the dissemination of technical matters to enhance the reputation of one or another corporation. As I say, all of this is understandable in a competitive system of free enterprise, but it might be much more advantageously handled than it is. I appreciate how deeply you feel in this matter as an American citizen because of your former knowledge of its significance.

If you don't mind, I am going to forward your letter to my friend, Mike Monroney, United States Senator of Oklahoma, who I am sure, would be deeply interested in this matter. I hope that if Mike ever asks you to talk to him confidentially about the subject that you will be willing to do so. I am sure you could open his eyes to a great deal that has gone on in this respect.

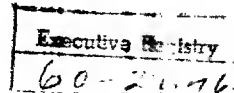
If you are ever down in the Los Angeles area, I hope you will call me. My address and telephone number you will note below. Kindest regards.

As always,

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cc: Senator S. S. Monroney



April 13, 1968

**MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN DIRECTOR  
AND CONGRESSMAN BRUCE ALGER (TEXAS).**

The Director called Congressman Bruce Alger (Texas) in response to the Congressman's inquiry as to whether Mr. Dulles ever made television appearances. The Congressman has a weekly TV program in Texas, and he wanted very much to have the Director as his guest. The Director explained he had "quit that," that he had appeared on TV a couple of times, once with his friend, Kenneth Keating, with the excuse that that was the part of the world he came from, and then he got in trouble on that and had to appear on another program (name not mentioned) from the same part of the country. Mr. Dulles said that Television has been after him all along, and that he has the problem of the foreign services with which he works, and who might not understand his appearing on TV, and that since his relationship with these foreign services is very important, he does not wish to make further TV appearances.

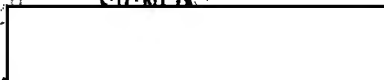
The Congressman said that any reason the Director gave was perfectly acceptable to him, that he did not wish to urge him to break his precedent, though these programs are going to be a series of academic forums on various branches of the government, and since our government is a government "for the people" he regretted that the Director felt he could not appear, but stated again he understood perfectly his reasoning, and would not press him to change his mind.

The Director stated he was much interested in this work, and mentioned that he was speaking to a group of foreign students on Sunday. He further said that maybe a time will come when he will feel he can and should appear on TV, and if so, he will certainly be in touch with Mr. Alger. The Congressman thanked him very much for his call, and the conversation ended.

cc: IG, Colonel Grogan, Legis. Counsel,  
ER ✓

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